

**CITY OF SHOREVIEW
MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
July 13, 2015**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Martin called the workshop meeting of the Shoreview City Council to order at 8:35 p.m. on July 13, 2015.

ROLL CALL

The following attended the meeting:

City Council: Mayor Martin; Councilmembers Johnson, Quigley, Springhorn and Wickstrom

Staff: Terry Schwerm, City Manager
Tom Simonson, Asst. City Manager/Economic Development Director
Rebecca Olson, Assistant to City Manager

Ramsey County
Board of
Commissioners: Commissioner Blake Huffman

Ramsey County
Library Director: Sue Nemitz

HGA Architects: Victor Pechaty, Architect

UPDATE ON REGIONAL LIBRARY PROJECT

Mr. Simonson stated that in order to facilitate this project, the City is transferring land to Ramsey County. The site plan for the project will go through the formal review process.

Commissioner Huffman stated that the existing library building is being sold to the Mounds View School District. The project is estimated at \$15.5 million. The sale of the existing building brought \$3.5 million toward the project. Ms. Nemitz added that the tight timeline is to be able to turn over the existing building to the school district by early 2017. This means breaking ground this fall for the new library.

Ms. Nemitz reported that in 2008, the Ramsey County Library Facilities Master Plan analyzed the following: 1) current facilities; 2) library siting; 3) services offered; 4) hours of availability; and 5) library trends. The study found that the northern suburbs did not have access to the full range of services available in southern Ramsey County. Also, the northern tier libraries were open fewer hours to the public.

The changes to the Shoreview Library are being driven by operational decisions. The Master Plan supports the development of three regional full-service libraries in Roseville, Maplewood

and Shoreview. Full service hours mean 63 hours a week with additional librarians for children and teens. Expanded services include expansion of children and teen services; diverse technologies in various formats using various devices; and a community room/study space. A request has been submitted to the County for operational funds in order to become a regional library by adding hours and adding staff for children and teens. The County will respond with its recommendations this summer.

Community input in 2012 was used in the proposed design. The first design was a two-story addition to the existing building, but there are varying grade levels on the site. It was this Council that pointed out how awkward such a building expansion would be. With the purchase of the two residential properties on the corner of Highway 96 and Victoria, consideration could then be given to new construction. A one-story library is more efficient. Residents expressed a desire for the library to interact more with the Community Center and Commons community space.

The HGA Architect stated that although the new design is a single story, it is 10,000 square feet larger than the existing two-story building. The philosophy of Ramsey County is to have libraries embrace and reflect the unique qualities of the communities where they are located. There is no specific “library type.” One characteristic of Shoreview is its natural amenities with lakes, trees, trails, native grasses and wetlands that will influence the building design. The texture of an oak tree trunk has been incorporated into the wood siding on the building. The softer color of sap wood will be reflected with brick masonry work around the building.

Councilmember Quigley asked if library services take into account the demographics of the community. Mr. Pechaty responded that many of Shoreview households are family households with minor children. There is a primary need for expanded youth programming. He noted that some trees will need to be removed. Efforts will be made to reclaim and reuse them. The idea of using translucent glass in the building to reflect the translucence of winter ice is being explored. Warm neutral colors will be used for the shell and features that will not be redecorated very often. Brighter more vibrant colors will be used in the decor that is periodically refreshed.

Although the City’s demographic is a majority of family households, that may not always be the case. In 20 or 30 years, that may not be the case. Space can be found with glass and fabric to create flexible spaces for different programs. There will be a community room that has capacity to seat 100 people. There will be a variety of study rooms that can accommodate activities such as book clubs. A total of 18 computers are planned.

Ornamental grasses will be heavily used in the landscaping. The library entrance will be where the southwest corner of parking is now located. Replacement parking of 66 stalls will be shifted to the east of the library entrance. The existing curb cut off Victoria will be preserved both for the school district and for the vehicle book dropoff. Energy conservation follows State of Minnesota B3 guidelines. This means that energy usage is 70% below the current standard.

Councilmember Wickstrom expressed her appreciation for the many features that have been presented, but she does not believe the proposed building design will fit in with the rest of the campus. The City worked hard to make sure the Maintenance Center would fit in with other City buildings. It is important for the library building to be reflective of the other City buildings as part of the Commons campus. HGA Architect, Mr. Pechaty stated that the design inspiration

was to use natural colors that come from the natural amenities in Shoreview rather than match the Commons buildings. With its visibility on Highway 96, there is also an effort to tie in with the residential area to the east and the commercial area to the west.

Councilmember Wickstrom asked how the community room compares to the one at Roseville. Ms. Nemitz stated that the community room at Roseville seats 125. The library experiences approximately 900 bookings a year for the room. Last week, there were 57 reservations for children's reading programs. She noted that the community asked for a drive-thru coffee service, but that is not included.

Councilmember Quigley agreed with Councilmember Wickstrom that the building should be designed to fit the Commons campus. He asked what would be typical for outside library signage. Ms. Nemitz stated that there have only been preliminary discussions regarding signage.

Mayor Martin stated that she would prefer to see the open plaza and garden space toward the northeast corner of the site rather than to the south on Highway 96 where one has to look across six lanes of traffic to see Snail Lake. Mr. Pechaty stated that these renderings are very preliminary.

Mayor Martin added that another concern is that the parking is on the Community Center side of the building which is not very attractive. She suggested an L shaped building along Highway 96 with an interior courtyard toward the north. Ms. Nemitz stated that consideration was given for the entrance to be on the other side with parking, but community input was strong to have the entrance oriented toward the Community Center. Further, she stated that changing the shape of the building becomes a staffing issue. It creates added walking within the building. With the present design, the main desk covers almost the entire building. Also, with an L shape a signal entrance is needed because children find ways to get in and out. Because the library will be facing the Community Center, there will be a stronger connection to the Commons area.

Mr. Schwerm noted that the library parking lot will sit 5 or 6 feet above the Community Center parking making it hard to visualize how traffic flow will work and how it will look. Mr. Pechaty stated that the drive to the library parking is a gradual rise, not a steep hill. The design can be captured digitally to include the topography and show what it will look and feel like.

Councilmember Johnson stated that she is excited about the design presented and noted that the function of the library for experiential learning is entirely different from the public meeting space of City buildings.

Councilmember Quigley asked if the book drop has to be at the library building. Ms. Nemitz responded that a dry book drop is possible. The volume for this book drop is high. Either staff would have to be hired for holidays because they fill so fast or a mechanical device would be needed, which would be a cost of approximately \$500,000.

Councilmember Wickstrom stated that she would like to see the book drop traffic kept separate from other traffic.

Ms. Nemitz noted that there is a community meeting the following day, which will also bring more input. She introduced Mr. John Hakes, Library Board Member who stated that in spite of the design discussion, the facility will be so much better than what the library has now.

Commissioner Huffman stated that a new fundraising campaign has been started by the Friends of the Library to raise \$200,000 for library amenities for the Shoreview regional library. He urged all to participate.

Mr. Simonson stated that staff believes a consultant should be retained soon to work on Commons Master Plan changes to incorporate the new library and address issues such as parking, traffic flow, safe movements for vehicles and pedestrians. He would like to see a pedestrian connection to the school district parking area that could be used for overflow parking when the library has special events. He likes the location of the building because the entrance is toward the Community Center and not on Victoria as with the existing library.

REVIEW OF DRAFT QUESTIONS FOR COMMUNITY SURVEY

Councilmember Johnson stated that it feels like it is the same survey over and over that will give answers the Council wants to hear but not what is needed.

Mr. Schwerm stated that the questions proposed on this survey are used as benchmarks for performance measures in the budget. He noted that some cities are using a new mailed survey approach through the National Research Center.

Councilmember Wickstrom stated that she likes to see a base line of questions each time for comparison purposes. Using a base line of questions, she would be open to adding different ones. She requested the following changes. No. 29 is a repeat of 19 and 20 and can be deleted. No. 104 can also be deleted because there are no public access programs anymore.

Councilmember Quigley suggested an added question that would ask what else residents would like to see happen.

Mayor Martin stated that she sent her questions to staff regarding the proposed survey.

The meeting adjourned.